UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

REPORT

BUCK CREEK INSECT CONTROL PROJECT

1934 - 1935

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Insect Control - Modoc

Alturas, California
April 17, 1935

R E P O R T

ON

BUCK CREEK INSECT CONTROL PROJECT

Approved:

Russell W. Benson
Forest Supervisor

Respectfully Submitted:

Don M Davison
Foreman

Alturas, California
April 17, 1935

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Buck Creek Project

The area covered in this report lies within what is known as the Buck Creek Timber Unit which embraces 4240 acres of which 480 acres is patented land. This unit includes all of the Buck Creek drainage, a portion of Pleasant Canyon and Willow Creek and extends as far south as Mason Creek. There is 28,900 M. bd. ft. Ponderosa Pine, 9,442 M. bd. ft. White Fir, and 165 M. bd. ft. Incense Cedar of Government and 758 M. bd. ft. Ponderosa Pine, and 2 M. bd. ft. White Fir of private timber in this unit. The boundary of the area treated starts about half a mile north of Buck Creek Ranger Station and extends in a southeasterly direction to the Section corner common to 8, 9, 16 and 17 T. 46 N., R. 15 E., M.D.M. - thence northeasterly approximately to the corner of Section 3, 4, 9 and 10, same Township and Range - thence northwesterly to the Section Corner common to 4, 5, 32 and 33 on the Township line between T. 46 N. and T. 47 N. - thence westerly to the Section line between Section 31 and 32 - thence north and west approximately to the ¼ S. corner of Section 31 on Range line between R. 14 E. and R. 15 E. - thence south to point of beginning. The attached map shows detailed location of area cruised and treated.

This area was previously treated in the months of March and April, 1933 - 196 trees were spotted and treated on 1840 acres. To quote from Forest Insect Surveys Report - Buck Creek Unit - 1934 by K. A. Salmon, Associate Entomologist, and R. L. Furniss, Junior Entomologist: "This area, controlled in the Spring of 1933 showed results during 1933, but it appears that the infestation now is reforming - if the Forest Service considers the values in the area are worth the expenditure and that the date of utilization is definite enough to warrant the protection costs, control in this area would be advisable. It is estimated that from 200 to 225 trees and about 225 to 250 M. bm. would need treatment."

The infestation is primarily Western Pine Beetle (Dendroctonous brevicomis) and Pine Flat - Headed Borer (Melanophila gentilis). Several trees were also found killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle (Dendroctonous monticola). The large Western Pine Engraver (Ips emarginatus) and the Five Spined Yellow Pine Engraver (Ips confusus) were found in the tops of numerous trees treated. The Red Turpentine Beetle (Dendroctonous valens) was also discovered in the butts of several D. B. trees. There was no heavy concentration of bug killed timber, the infested trees being scattered fairly evenly over the entire area, with the exception of the high country on the north and east where very few trees were located.

CONTROL METHODS

The same methods of control were followed in this work that have been used in past projects on the Modoc. A four man spotting crew consisting of a compassman and three spotters was used for the bulk of the spotting. A 100% strip cruise was made on 10 chain strips across each section or part of section. The Bureau Plot No. R. S. 11 was respotted in conjunction with the regular cruise and no treaters were started on this plot until the spotting was completed. An average of 40 acres per man day was spotted. Treating was accomplished by the peeling and burning process. Two man units were used in each treating crew. An average of .89 trees per man day was treated.

ORGANIZATION OF CONTROL WORK

As all the area treated was government land, work was handled entirely by the Forest Service. Alvin L. Parker, District Ranger, had general charge of the project up to the time of his transfer to the Shasta (March 16, 1935). Work was supervised by Foreman Don M. Davison from that date until the job was completed, assisted by Junior Forester R. S. Bacon and District Ranger J. C. Davis. Notice was received by Alvin L. Parker from the Supervisor on December 7, 1934 that $1100 was allotted by the Regional Forester for the Buck Creek job. ($500. - Impaira and $600. - Idounira) Spotting was started on December 11, Alvin Parker working on the spotting crew, andwas carried on until December 16 when work was discontinued on account of heavy snowfall. Work was not started again until January 4, 1935. At this time spotting was continued and three treating crews were started. There was from six inches to three feet of snow on the area at this time and the crews had to be pulled off again on account of bad weather on January 8. With the probability of stormy weather continuing work was closed down again. The weather moderated considerably by the latter part of February and due to the acute unemployment situation in the country work was commenced again on the 25th of February and carried on intermittently until March 31 when treating was completed. All trees spotted were treated. There were never more than four treating crews working at one time. We were fortunate in having extra good timber fallers and experienced treaters for the most part.

No cook house was established, the spotters boarded with Ranger Parker and his wife and the treaters drove back and forth from home.

AMOUNT OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Number of trees spotted	143
Volume Spotted	250,990 bd. ft.
Acres "	1800

Everything that was spotted was treated so that treating results are the same as the spotting results.

Average number of trees per section	50.36
Average D.B.H. per tree	32.7
Average volume per tree	1680.Bd. ft.
Average number of logs per tree	4.6

In comparing the averages with those of the 1938 Buck Creek Project it was found that the average bd. ft. per tree runs slightly higher.

LABOR AND COST DISTRIBUTIONS

	No. Man Days	Total Cost	Cost per Man day
Supervision	28	123.20	4.40
Spotting (Wages, spotting crew)	36.5	160.60	4.40
Treating (Wages, treating crew)	118	459.20	3.89
Transportation (gas & oil)	186.5	6.44	.03
Equipment (Repairs and replacement)	186.5	32.05	.17
Miscellaneous (overhead items)	186.5	5.62	.03
TOTALS		787.11	4.22

PROJECT COST SUMMARIZATIONS

Salaries & wages (allworkers)	765.40	4.09
Transportation (gas & oil)	6.44	.03
Equipment (tools,etc.)	11.65	.06
Miscellaneous (overhead items)	5.62	.03
	787.11	4.22

AVERAGE COSTS

Cost per tree spotted (labor only)	1.22
Cost per tree treated (including spotting	5.80
Cost per M. bd. ft. (labor only)	.69
Cost per M bd. ft. (including spotting)	3.40
Cost per acre treated	.43
Cost per man day of total labor	4.09

CONTRIBUTED TIME

15 man days were contributed by SERA labor - amount treated 9,880 bd. ft.
Salaries and expenses of permanent Forest officers: $82.75

5
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Buck Creek Unit

20° E
46 N
41 N
14-15 E
14-15 E
MDM
WDM
1800
2

Don M. Davison - 4-3 35